

CONSIDERING QUESTION PERIOD

It is often said that there is a reason why Question Period is not called Answer Period. Watch the proceedings of Question Period and/or follow along with a copy of *Hansard*—the official transcripts of the proceedings of the legislature—while considering the following questions.

1. Do you think the questions dealt with important issues? Would you have raised different issues?
2. Did the responses seem relevant to the questions?
3. If a question was not *really* answered, what techniques were used to avoid giving an answer? Did the non-answer help bring forward useful discussion?
4. Did the opposition listen to the government's response and meaningfully engage with it?
5. Did you notice any theatrics by opposition or government members? If so, what?
6. Did the Speaker of the House have to intervene and ask for order?
7. Consider Question Period as a whole. Is it a valuable part of our governance? If so, why? If not, how would you improve it?

